

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

August 27, 2012

www.op97.org

Important Dates

August 27-September 7	MAP Testing
September 3	Labor Day -- No School
September 15	Harvest Social
September 20	Curriculum Night

Dear Families,

The year has gotten off to a great start! Thank you for all you have done to send your child prepared for the school year.

Beginning this week, students will switch classes for blocks of subjects. This is a new concept for most fifth graders. The key to success will be to stay organized, keep up with work, and communicate effectively. Please be sure to check our fifth grade Wiki page and your teacher's pages for assignments and valuable resources. The links to both are at the end of this newsletter.

You will have an opportunity to meet the 5th grade team at Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 20. Please plan to attend. We look forward to meeting you!

Art - 5th graders are back at it in the Art room. We have been reviewing the Elements of Art (line, shape, form, space, value, texture, & color). We are creating a mixed media drawing project featuring these Elements as a warm-up for many exciting other projects coming this year.

Music - 5th Graders have had a great start to the year and I am looking forward to a year of wonderful music making! They will need to bring in their recorders starting on Tuesday, September 4th. If your child cannot find their recorder they may bring in 6 dollars cash or check to district 97 to music to purchase a new one. They also may purchase a recorder online from the Holmes store. Please do not buy any recorder other than the ones being sold through school. Financial assistance is available, if needed (email Mrs. Karia at akaria@op97.org).

Spanish -

Library - In the library this week, fifth graders will learn about "IPICK," an acronym to help them choose a good fit book. Find out more on the Holmes Library page on our school website, <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>. The library also has a blog (<http://holmesmediacenter.blogspot.com/>) that is periodically updated with fun literacy events in the school and Oak Park communities, and other "happenings" in the library. Email the teacher librarian, Ms. Maneck, at mmaneck@op97.org with questions.

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.

Reading/Literature

Students will be introduced to the procedures of Reader's Workshop this week. We will begin with talking about how reading has affected our lives by completing a Reading Timeline. We will continue the week with learning about and practicing strategies that help us monitor our own comprehension, as well as begin building our stamina for reading independently. This year, we will be using a mixture of short selections from Treasures as well as novels. Students will be required to keep a Literacy Log, and a Book Bag with at least 4 books at their reading level. This week we will be working with Ms. Maneck in the library to learn how to select "good fit" books.

Language Arts

During our first unit of study in writing students will focus on investigating what it means to have strong personal character. This week we are working on the writing trait of organization. Through the use of picture books, we will guide students to be able to write an 8-sentence paragraph that includes specific examples and quotes from the text to answer a given question.

Math

Illinois has adopted the Common Core State Standards, which provide fewer, clearer, higher standards in Language Arts and Math. In accordance with these standards, we will be focusing on three critical areas this year: *(1) developing fluency with addition and subtraction of fractions, and developing understanding of the multiplication of fractions and of division of fractions in limited cases (unit fractions divided by whole numbers and whole numbers divided by unit fractions); (2) extending division to 2-digit divisors, integrating decimal fractions into the place value system and developing understanding of operations with decimals to hundredths, and developing fluency with whole number and decimal operations; and (3) developing understanding of volume.* (Common Core State Standards for Math).

We will begin the year with a few weeks of review and then move on to operations with whole numbers and decimals. Your child can expect to have math homework Monday through Thursday. Typically, we will have a quiz on Friday covering the material discussed that week. **All fifth-grade students should have a TI-15 calculator, which is available for purchase from your child's math teacher for \$16.** Please send cash or a check made payable to OP District 97.

Science

Our three areas of study this year will be Energy and Pollution; Variables; and the Human Body. This first week, we are learning about potential and kinetic energy; renewable and nonrenewable resources;

and energy flows. Understanding energy flows will help students understand how energy reaches its ultimate destination, whether it is a fossil fuel or an alternative energy. We are beginning to plan for our

long-term projects -- a feasibility study and a research paper. **For future experiments, we will need large, clean pizza delivery boxes and 2-liter bottles.** Please send them our way.

Social Studies

Big Question: How do the land and people of the United States of America affect one another?

This week students will explore America's Land. Students will learn about the regions, national parks and resources that are found in our country. We will also review map skills by looking at population and climate maps and reading about the effects of our nation's growing population. Throughout the week students will gather examples of how the land and the people of the United States affect one another, and then write a response to that question on Friday.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

Ms. Kraft
fkraft@op97.org

Ms. Manuel
mmanuel@op97.org

Ms. Peterson
apeterson@op97.org

Ms. Yigzaw
vyigzaw@op97.org